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# What is the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society ?

American Baptist Foreign Mission Society
Ford Building Boston, Mass.

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# What is the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society?

## THE ORGANIZATION.

THE American Baptist Foreign Mission Society is the general organization of Baptists in the northern states through which the denomination conducts its foreign mission work. The Society meets annually in connection with the sessions of the Northern Baptist Convention and all delegates to the meeting of the Convention are members of the Society. Besides these the membership includes any delegates who may be appointed by the churches to the annual meeting of the society, the life members* and all the missionaries.

The Society is one of the cooperating organizations of the Northern Baptist Convention, soliciting funds and making expenditures only on approval of the Convention. Thus it will be seen that the Society is very directly related to the churches; the churches control the policy of the Society, the missionaries are the representatives of the churches and the work that is done depends upon the support of the churches.

Except in Bengal-Orissa the work for women is under the direction of the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. This is a separate organization cooperating with the general Society, however, in the appointment of missionaries and conduct of the work.

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* No new life memberships have been created since 1908, but all previously created memberships are recognized. As a matter of fact the annual meeting of the Society is composed almost if not wholly, of delegates to the Convention.

## THE MISSIONS AND THE MISSIONARIES.

THE work conducted for the churches in non-Christian lands is located in Burma, Assam, South India, Bengal-Orissa, South China, East China, West China, Central China, Japan, Belgian Congo and the Philippines. In addition a cooperative relationship is maintained with local committees in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Sweden, Spain, Russia, Finland, Denmark and Norway.

About 700 missionaries, men and women (including wives) are at work in these mission fields. They are not ordinary men and women. Many who apply for appointment are declined because of lack of spiritual, physical, mental or temperamental fitness, and those who are chosen are in most cases those of outstanding ability. All have had successful experience in Christian work, practically all are college graduates, with a post-graduate or professional school course in addition. Some have been athletes in their school days, others have been successful pastors, still others have given up fine positions in teaching or in business to accept appointment as missionaries. All have been selected because of their ability in Christian leadership, and are men and women of whom the churches that have sent them forth can be proud.

In most countries the first term of active service is six and a half years, and succeeding terms seven and a half years. In Belgian Congo and the Philippines, owing to climatic conditions, the term is shorter. A furlough of fifteen or eighteen months follows each term of active service, and every missionary is required to come home for his furlough at the regular time, unless special circumstances seem to make postponement advisable.

The salaries of the missionaries are based on the principle of support, not remuneration, hence they vary in different countries. They also differ according

to length of service, ranging (for married men) from $1000 to $1200 in some countries and from $1200 to $1440 in others. An addition is made to the salary for each child and a house is also provided. The salary of a single man or woman is from $600 to $1200, with house rent. An outfit allowance of $200 to $400 is given new missionaries, and a refit of $100 to $200 to those returning to their work. During furlough the salary is $1100 for a married man, and $600 to $734 for a single man or woman.

Transportation to and from the field is also provided. To some people these salaries will seem large, to others small, according to what they themselves receive. With rare exceptions the missionaries do not save anything from their income, while on the other hand their salaries are intended to be ample for all needs.

## THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

THE Board of Managers administer the work for the Society and the churches. Twenty-seven members constitute the Board, nine being chosen by the Society at each annual meeting. Both laymen and ministers are included in the membership, and a glance at their names will show that all are men of high standing and worthy of confidence. They meet regularly once a month in an all-day session, with a two-days' meeting quarterly. Besides these there are special meetings and frequent committee meetings and conferences. The members give liberally of their time and thought, with the same spirit that actuates the missionaries. With the exception of occasional executive sessions, all meetings of the Board are open, and nothing would give a better idea of the work than attendance upon one of these meetings. Missionaries and others who have sat with the Board have invariably expressed their surprise and gratification at the earnest, conscientious, sympathetic and prayerful spirit in which the business is

conducted. The Board appoint the missionaries, direct their work, make all appropriations, and decide the innumerable questions that come up for discussion through the year.

**THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.**

THE plans and policies of the Board of Managers are carried out under the direction of the executive officers at the headquarters of the Society, 800 Ford Building, 15 Ashburton Place, Boston. These officers are eight in number. The General Secretary, Emory W. Hunt, has advisory relation to all the departments, and is especially in charge of the general financial campaign and the securing of new missionaries. The Home Secretary, Fred P. Haggard, and the Assistant Secretary in the Home Department, William B. Lipphard, have charge of the educational work in the churches and Sunday schools, correspondence relating to the Station Plan and the support of workers, the direction of the District Secretaries, the deputation work of missionaries on furlough, relationship to certain important interdenominational agencies, and the preparation and circulation of literature. The Foreign Secretaries, James H. Franklin and Arthur C. Baldwin, with the Assistant Secretary in the Foreign Department, George B. Huntington, have in charge the large correspondence with the missionaries relating to all interests of the work on the foreign fields. Dr. Franklin has oversight of the work in China, Japan, the Philippines, Belgian Congo and Europe, while Mr. Baldwin is similarly related to Burma, Assam, South India and Bengal-Orissa. The development of the policies and plans for the work abroad is a large task belonging to the Secretaries in the Foreign Department. The Treasurer, Ernest S. Butler, and the Vice-Treasurer, John F. Barnes, receive and care for the money, invest the funds, disburse the appropriations and keep the multitude

of accounts required. Each department has related to it subcommittees of the Board with whom the executive officers consult frequently in preparation of business for the Board. Associated with the executive officers is a trained and efficient staff of assistants, clerks and stenographers, all of whom are earnest Christians, giving their faithful service with true missionary interest to the common cause. Few people realize what a vast amount of work is involved in the conduct of so complex an enterprise comprising elements that in this country are usually cared for by separate organizations: Evangelization, Education, Medical work, Industrial work, Translation and Publication.

## THE WORK ON THE HOME FIELD.

IN order to stimulate interest and prayer on behalf of the work among the churches at home and to secure continual and increasing contributions, it is necessary to keep the churches in touch with the work of the missionaries. This is necessary as well for the life of the churches themselves as for the continuance of the work abroad. This work on the home field includes information, inspiration and collection of money, and as stated elsewhere, is done through the Home Department.

The District Secretaries, ten in number, represent the Society in this work among the churches. With these should be included five secretaries of state missionary bureaus or collecting agencies, appointed by the State Conventions. These are as follows:

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT: (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut) Rev. P. H. J. Lerrigo, M.D.*, 716 Ford Building, Boston.

* Represents also the American Baptist Home Mission Society and American Baptist Publication Society.

NEW YORK DISTRICT: (New York, New Jersey—East, North, Morris & Essex and Monmouth Associations) Rev. A. L. Snell, 23 East 26th Street, New York City.

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT: (Pennsylvania, Delaware, District of Columbia, New Jersey—Camden, West, Trenton, Central Associations) Rev. F. S. Dobbins, 1701 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

KANAWHA DISTRICT: (West Virginia) J. S. Stump, D.D.,** 1705 Seventeenth St., Parkersburg, W. Va.

OHIO-INDIANA DISTRICT: (Ohio and Indiana) Rev. C. E. Stanton,** Granville, Ohio.

LAKE DISTRICT: (Illinois) J. Y. Aitchison, D.D.,** 19 South La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.

SUPERIOR DISTRICT: (Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota) Frank Peterson, D.D.,** 407 Evanston Building, Minneapolis, Minn.

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT: (Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico) I. N. Clark, D.D., 614 Massachusetts Building, Kansas City, Mo.

YELLOWSTONE DISTRICT: (Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Eastern Washington) C. A. Cook, D.D.,** 1503 Mission Ave., Spokane, Wash. (P. O. Box 1, Sta. A.)

PACIFIC DISTRICT: (California, Oregon, Western Washington, Nevada, Arizona) Rev. A. W. Rider, 812 Broadway, Oakland, Cal.

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** Represents also the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

MISSOURI: H. E. Truex, D.D.,† Metropolitan Building, Grand and Oilve Sts., St. Louis, Mo.

NEBRASKA: Wilson Mills, D.D.,† 905 Omaha National Bank Building, Omaha, Nebr.

MICHIGAN: Rev. E. M. Lake,† 536 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, Mich.

WISCONSIN: Rev. H. R. MacMillan,† 1717 Wells St., Milwaukee, Wis.

IOWA: S. E. Wilcox, D.D.,† Des Moines, Iowa.

Special Joint Secretary — A. W. Anthony, D. D.,‡ Lewiston, Me.

These secretaries are all eager to cooperate with the churches, making suggestions regarding methods of work, helping in the solution of problems, distributing literature, visiting the churches so far as time will permit, and receiving missionary offerings. Hearty cooperation is needed between pastors, treasurers and other leaders in the churches and the district secretaries, to secure the largest results in the work.

An important factor in disseminating missionary information is the deputation work of missionaries at home on furlough. Not all are available for this work, but as many as possible are sent among the churches on carefully planned itineraries, carrying their inspiring message.

The general missionary education work is carried on through the Department of Missionary Education, 23 East 26th Street, New York City, of which John M. Moore, D.D. is secretary. This is the authorized educational agency of all the Baptist missionary societies.

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† Represents all missionary interests in his state.

‡Represents also the American Baptist Home Mission Society, the American Baptist Publication Society, and the Free Baptists of the United States.

## THE WORK ON THE FOREIGN FIELD.

MOST of the missionaries are engaged principally in evangelistic work, by which is meant preaching tours through the country, care of churches and direction of evangelists or Bible women. Many, however, are teachers, having oversight of day schools for boys, or girls, or acting as principals of high schools, or directing industrial schools, or serving as professors in the mission colleges or theological seminaries. Following the example of the Great Physician, other missionaries are doctors, in charge of hospitals and dispensaries and training native physicians and nurses. The Bible and Christian literature must be circulated, and some missionaries give their attention, wholly or in part, to translating the Bible into the language of the people, writing books or tracts, or superintending the printing and circulation of this literature. Still other missionaries are in charge of orphanages, widows' homes, or leper asylums. Yet others are business agents or stenographers, and one is the captain-evangelist in charge of the Gospel Ship in Japan. Whatever the special form of their work, they are first of all Christian missionaries, using the talents and abilities that they have to help establish the Kingdom of God in the lands to which they have gone.

In each field the missionaries have organized themselves into a Conference, which in most cases meets annually for the discussion of problems of the work. Between sessions of the conference a reference committee represents the mission body, acting on matters referred to them by the missionaries or the Board. Property interests, including the erection of all mission buildings, are in charge of a property committee. A language examination committee directs the language study of newly appointed missionaries. Higher educational institutions have advisory boards of trustees, and medical work is under the oversight of a medical

committee. Other committees are appointed as needed. While these committees take much time and thought, they are an integral part of the missionary's work and a most important part, too, coordinating and strengthening the work of all, preventing loss and in very many ways increasing efficiency.

Large sums have been invested in the equipment of the work on the foreign field. The missionaries must have suitable homes; schools must have buildings, apparatus and libraries; preaching halls and chapels must be built; doctors must have dispensaries and hospitals; and printing presses must be housed. Then there is the fine Gospel Ship and the touring outfits, carts, ponies, tents, gospel wagons, motor launches, motorcycles, and many other things, all needed for carrying the glorious gospel message to the people in cities and villages, mountains and jungles. There are many buildings in the missions as good as can be found anywhere in the East, like the Cushing Memorial Buildings of Rangoon Baptist College, or the American Baptist Mission Press at Rangoon, or the Ashmore Theological Seminary at Swatow, China, or the new Central Tabernacle in Tokyo, Japan. Unfortunately not all the work is as well cared for, lack of money making it impossible to provide the missionaries with the equipment which is absolutely essential to the largest use of their abilities and opportunities. A quarter of a million dollars is urgently needed to equip the present work as it ought to be.

**THE FINANCIAL SIDE.**

WHERE does the money come from to carry on all this great work? From several sources. The principal one is the churches, Sunday schools and young people's societies. Individual gifts constitute another prominent source. Then there are legacies, income from permanent funds, matured annuity bonds, and gifts designated

by the donors for specific purposes. Every year, before appropriations are made, a budget of anticipated receipts and expenditures is made up. An estimate of needed appropriations is prepared by each missionary. These are reviewed by the mission conference or reference committee, and with the estimates for home expenditures are further studied by the Board of Managers. The probable receipts are also carefully estimated, and the whole budget, over a million dollars, is submitted to the Finance Committee of the Northern Baptist Convention and later acted upon finally by the Convention itself. The amount needed from churches is apportioned to them through the General Apportionment Committee of the Convention and the state apportionment committees. Of course no one can know until the close of the year how much money will be received, and if the receipts fall short a deficit is the result. A serious element in the problem is the custom of most churches of withholding their offerings until the last month of the year. Indeed, more than two thirds of the money comes in during the last fifteen days. This makes it necessary to borrow large sums, paying for interest what otherwise might be expended in the work.

The credit of the Society is so good, however, that whenever it is necessary to borrow, any amount can be secured on the note of the Treasurer, without pledging any security whatever. The drafts on the Treasurer can be sold anywhere in the world at the highest market price. The Society has always paid every obligation promptly and always will. This is recognized by many who wish to leave money to the Society when they die, but need the income during their life, and who have given funds on this basis. More than $500,000 is thus held in annuity bonds and over $800,000 in other permanent funds.

A financial question regarding which there is often misunderstanding is the proportion expended here in

America for administration. On this it should be said that the cost of administering the work is less than that of any private business of the same size. It is proportionately less than that of the state conventions, and while more than that of a few other foreign mission societies, the difference is due to clearly recognizable reasons. Some societies conduct certain phases of their administrative work through the missionaries on the field instead of through the home office, and the expense is included in the foreign field expenditures, or, as in the case of Methodist missionary bishops, is not charged to the account of the Board at all, but is provided by a separate fund. Some boards pay no rent, others have special funds to care for special departments, and still others have secretaries serving without salary or with salary provided in part privately. If all societies could be compared on the same basis the proportion of expenditures for administration would probably be found about the same in all.

This home expense item is based on a more or less arbitrary classification. For example, the administrative work conducted through mission treasurers on the foreign field is charged to foreign field expenditures, while similar expense here at home is charged to home expenditures. One is not criticized, the other is. As a matter of fact, criticism of the expense of home administration rests on a premise that is fundamentally wrong—that the only real missionary work is what is done by the missionaries *on the field*, and that everything they do is real missionary work. But as already indicated, a very large part of a missionary's time is given to administrative work. On the other hand the work of the secretaries and other officers here at home is not purely administrative, but has a spiritual side, developing the religious life in the churches and contributing directly and largely to the establishment of the world-wide Kingdom of Jesus. After all, the question is not how much of each dollar goes to the

heathen; for money is not sent to the heathen, but the gospel. The question should rather be as to how widely the gospel is being spread through each dollar. So it does not matter where the money is spent, whether in Boston, or London, or Madras, or Shanghai, so that the gospel is given to the world.

## THE PAST AND THE FUTURE.

THE results of the more than a century of work cannot be tabulated. Over 585,000 have been baptized on all the mission fields, including Europe. Hundreds of thousands have received a Christian education. In a single year more than a hundred thousand sufferers have received a practical illustration of Christian love in medical service. But figures do not tell the whole story. The results of Christian work in non-Christian lands are seen also in higher social standards, reform movements, recognition of the Christian Sabbath, changes in native religious life and friendliness to Christianity.

Yet the success of the past is but an indication of what may yet be achieved. The opportunities are boundless in every land. The only limitations are those set by the home churches in their supply of missionaries and money. To meet the situation the Board have adopted the following comprehensive policy, which as rapidly as possible is being carried into effect.

The Foreign Mission Society holds:

(1) That intensive development of the work in sections already occupied is for the immediate future a more imperative duty than entrance upon new fields. Many of the stations of the Society are inadequately supplied with workers and equipment, with the result that in some cases the work neither commands the respect of the people nor yields returns in proportion to the effort expended. The entrance upon new fields, demanded by the clear indications of divine Providence, will itself demand definite increase of resources.

(2) That effort should be directed to the establishment, at strategic points, of strong Christian communities which shall be permanent forces of evangelization and which will gradually assume full responsibility for the extension of the Kingdom in their own lands. Preaching of the gospel by foreign missionaries must continue, but should in each region give place as soon as practicable to evangelization by the native Christian forces.

(3) That education, especially of the Christian youth and the children of Christian parents, is a matter of pressing importance. Only by such education can the Christian community become and remain a potent force in the life of the nation, or leaders be provided to carry forward the work of evangelization and the building up of the Christian community.

(4) That to the utmost practical extent there should be cooperation with other Christian bodies working in the same fields. Such cooperation is of special importance in the department of higher education, where students are relatively few and education expensive.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

FINALLY, the importance of prayer must always be kept in mind. Missionaries are not sufficient to accomplish the task; money, though essential, is not the most powerful factor. But God's resources are infinite, and the supreme need is faith in Him and adequate prayer. If the churches will give themselves to prayer, all that is needed will be provided. It is only through His power that the missionaries can win success, and through Him alone that the ultimate triumph will come.

*For additional literature or any other information regarding the work of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, write to any of the following:—*

*The nearest District Secretary.*

*Department of Missionary Education, 23 East 26th Street, New York City.*

*Literature Department, Box 41, Boston, Mass.*

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